

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1        1.    Adapted for a network including a client and a  
2    plurality of local domains including at least a first local  
3    domain and a second local domain, a method comprising:  
4        segmenting content including a Base Uniform Resource  
5    Identifier (URI) into multiple packets by a personal content  
6    director of the first local domain, a first packet of the  
7    multiple packets including the Base URI;  
8        transmitting the first packet of the multiple packets by  
9    the personal content director of the first local domain to at  
10   least a personal content director for the second local domain;  
11        substituting the Base URI for a HyperText Markup Language  
12   (HTML) Base tag within each of the first packets by the personal  
13   content directors of at least the first and second local  
14   domains; and  
15        transmitting the first packets with the HTML Base tags by  
16   the personal content directors to the client.  
1        2.    The method of claim 1, wherein prior to segmenting the  
2    content, the method further comprises:  
3        retrieving content by the personal content director at the  
4    first local domain.  
1        3.    The method of claim 2, wherein the Base URI being an  
2    Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) provided by an initial request  
3    by the client causing retrieval of the content by the personal  
4    content director at the first local domain.  
1        4.    The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple packets  
2    are Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) packets.

1        5.    The method of claim 1, wherein transmission of the  
2 first packet between the personal content director at the first  
3 local domain and at least the personal content director at the  
4 second local domain is made over an authenticated communication  
5 link.

1        6.    The method of claim 1, wherein the HTML Base tag  
2 substituted within the first packet transmitted by the personal  
3 content director of the first local domain points to the first  
4 local domain.

1        7.    The method of claim 6, wherein the HTML Base tag  
2 substituted within the first packet transmitted by the personal  
3 content director of the second local domain points to the second  
4 local domain.

1        8.    The method of claim 1, wherein the first packets with  
2 the HTML Base tags are simultaneously transmitted by the  
3 personal content directors.

1        9.    The method of claim 1, wherein the first packets with  
2 the HTML Base tags are transmitted by the personal content  
3 directors substantially concurrent to each other.

1        10.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2        incorporating an earliest first packet received by the  
3 client from the plurality of personal content directors into a  
4 data stream and disregarding the later received first packets.

1        11.   The method of claim 10 further comprising:

2        accessing the local domain associated with the personal  
3        content director that transmitted the first packet earliest  
4        received by the client for subsequent data requests.

1        12. Adapted for performing proximity measurements over a  
2        network including a client and a plurality of local domains, a  
3        method comprising:

4               retrieving a file by logic within a first local domain of  
5        the plurality of local domains, the file including a plurality  
6        of links for downloadable streaming media;

7               transmitting a copy of the file from the first local domain  
8        to at least a second local domain of the plurality of local  
9        domains;

10               at each local domain, translating at least one link of the  
11        plurality of links to point to that corresponding local domain;

12               transmitting the file and at least the copy of the file to  
13        the client for determining one of the plurality of local domains  
14        being most proximate to the client.

15        13. The method of claim 12, wherein the file is configured  
2        in an ASX metafile format.

1        14. The method of claim 12, wherein the translation of the  
2        at least one link of the plurality of links is conducted in  
3        accordance with predetermined link translation rules.

1        15. The method of claim 12, wherein the transmission of  
2        the file between the plurality of local domains is made over an  
3        established, authenticated communication link.

1        16. The method of claim 12, wherein at least the file and  
2 the copy of the file are simultaneously transmitted from the  
3 plurality of local domains.

1        17. The method of claim 12 further comprising:  
2        incorporating an earliest one of the file and the copy of  
3 the file received by the client into a data stream and  
4 disregarding the later received one of the file and the copy of  
5 the file.

1        18. The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
2        accessing the local domain associated with the earliest  
3 received one of the file and the copy of the file for subsequent  
4 downloads of the streaming media by the client.

1        19. Adapted for performing proximity measurements over a  
2 network including a client and a plurality of local domains, a  
3 method comprising:

4        (a) retrieving a file by logic within a first local domain  
5 of the plurality of local domains, the file including a  
6 plurality of links for downloadable streaming media;

7        (b) establishing groupings of unique links from the  
8 plurality of links, each grouping including at least one link of  
9 the plurality of links;

10       (c) creating a redirect packet for a first grouping;

11       (d) transmitting the redirect packet for the first grouping  
12 to at least a second local domain of the plurality of local  
13 domains;

14       (e) at each local domain, translating a location field of  
15 the redirect packet to point to that local domain;

16 (f) transmitting the redirect packets from the local  
17 domains to the client for determining one of the plurality of  
18 local domains being most proximate to the client for downloading  
19 the streaming media associated with the first grouping.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:  
2 continuing the operations of (c)-(f) of each of the  
3 remaining groupings.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100